

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the office action dated January 14, 2008, and completion of the telephonic interview of March 11, 2008. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and are summarized herein.

The Examiner's withdrawal of previous rejections is noted with appreciation. Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-11 are currently pending.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,099,027 to Barry et al. (*hereinafter*, "Barry") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,088,462 to Bhogal et al. (*hereinafter*, "Bhogal"). In view of the amendments and arguments set forth below, it is submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct over the art of record.

By way of review, the subject application teaches a system and method that allow for print settings to be stored along with an electronic document. When a document is recalled, the specific settings associated previously with that document are recalled and are usable again without any need to re-specify those settings. This is advantageous for documents that will consistently require output with some or all of the settings made before, as would be expected in systems that revert to general default settings for each document recalled.

An embodiment of the subject application is directed to a system and method for printing electronic files. An electronic file representative of a document is received, and a user is prompted for print setting information corresponding to the electronic file, the print setting information including at least one of a desired property including stapling, hole punching, output destination, number of copies, orientation, collating, and finishing. In a typical document rendering, such settings are subject to a default setting in a driver, which default setting may be altered in connection with a particular print job. A subsequent re-printing of that job will result in reinstitution of default settings, which may be different than those customized settings used previously. Alternatively, a default setting may be altered, resulting in different settings for subsequent print jobs that are unrelated. The print setting information data is generated and stored in an associated storage. The print setting information data is associatively stored with the electronic file such that a subsequent recall of the electronic file automatically retrieves print setting information data associated therewith. The electronic file is converted to an image file,

and a print job is created in accordance with the image file and the print setting information data. A user selects a print job for output to at least one selected destination, the at least one selected destination including at least one of a printed copy of the document, an electronic mail inclusive of the image file, and an electronic copy of the image file. At least a first copy of the image file is output in accordance with received output request data. A second output request is received from the user to output at least a second output of the electronic file. The electronic file and the associatively stored print setting information are retrieved from the storage in accordance with such request, and at least a second copy of the electronic file is output.

In the most recent Office Action, the Examiner relies on the teachings of Bhogal to supplement the teachings of Barry, noting Barry's failure to disclose a means for receiving primary and secondary request data, means for retrieving corresponding printing setting data from the storage in accordance with an output request, and means for outputting a copy of the image file in accordance with a secondary output request. The Examiner points to Bhogal as addressing this deficiency.

Bhogal is directed to a print manager having a user interface that allows a user to specify features for a print job. While such settings are settable and usable for a document rendering, they are not stored relative to the electronic document once set such that they are available the next time that the document is recalled for processing.


Amendment to each of independent claims 1, 7, and 11 has been made to further emphasize the novel aspects of the subject application over the art of record. As amended, all claims now include limitations wherein print settings are stored associatively with each document. In this fashion, previously set or customized settings are readily available for use during a subsequent rendering of the document. A user need not re-specify those settings made in a prior print job, nor does each document revert to a general system setting for document output. It is respectfully submitted that, as amended, all claims are now far removed from the teachings of Barry or Bhogal, alone or in combination.

In accordance with the afore-noted amendments and comments, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/00008.

Respectfully submitted,

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